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May 2, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MBA TEAMS TAKE TOP AWARDS AT GRADUATE BUSINESS STUDENT COMPETITION

DAYTON, Ohio — For giving practical help to real companies, students from the University of Dayton's MBA program earned two of the top three awards April 26-27 in the annual Ohio Graduate Business Student Competition held in Columbus.

For the second consecutive year, a UD team won the competition while another took third place. A team from Bowling Green State University placed second.

"Our students did wonderfully," said Tim Winning, executive-in-residence in UD's School of Business Administration. "I think they distinguished themselves because of their maturity of focus in dealing with a client."

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams with \$2,500 for first, \$1,500 for second and \$1,000 for third place. Fifteen Ohio schools with MBA programs participated in this year's event.

At the beginning of the semester, each team was assigned a business client and required to address the operational needs of that particular company. Teams were expected to contribute ideas toward improving their client's business in such areas as services, production, inventory, marketing and organization.

Teams were graded on oral presentation, a written case study, client evaluation and assessment by members of the Small Business Development Centers of Ohio.

Besides Dayton, UD operates an MBA program in Columbus, Ohio, at Ohio Dominican College. UD's Dayton team, which won the event, created a five-year business plan for Dayton company Quality Methods International Inc. while the Columbus team developed a restructuring plan to support economic growth for We Joy Sing Inc., a Columbus company.

Winning says he attributes UD's success to its capstone course, generally the last course before graduation, where student teams collaborate with local businesses on how to improve that company.

"I think this program gives us a leg up on the competition," Winning said. "Most schools

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that entered the competition form special teams to participate in this event. It's part of our curriculum."

The purpose of the competition is to give business graduate students an opportunity to work with practical business problems; to assist businesses by applying educational expertise and resources; to contribute to economic development in Ohio; and to enhance the links between graduate business education and institutions, business and industry.

The competition is sponsored by KPMG, an international accounting firm, the Small Business Development Centers of Ohio, Kent State University, the Ohio Society of CPAs and Ashland Chemical.

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For media interviews, contact **Tom Winning** at work (937) 229-3411, at home (937) 855-3474 or via e-mail at twinning@prodigy.net. For more information on UD's MBA program, see www.sba.udayton.edu/mba.